

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01     PRETOR 03775 301155Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 301130Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8244

S E C R E T PRETORIA 3775

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: BOTHA-OWEN-VANCE MEETING

REF: STATE 173914, PRETORIA 3684,

1. I SPOKE WITH SIR DAVID SCOTT THIS MORNING ABOUT STATUS OF SAG RESPONSE TO OWEN LETTER INVITING BOTHA TO LONDON MEETING.

2. SCOTT SAID THAT AT WEDNESDAY (JULY 27) MEETING WITH BOTHA LATTER WAS AMBIVALENT. HE DISPLAYED SOME RELUCTANCE TO ATTEND, EXPRESSING DESIRE TO AVOID ANOTHER SESSION LIKE VIENNA WHERE US CAME WITH SET POSITION AND PROCEEDED TO PRESCRIBE WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF SOUTH AFRICA. NEVERTHELESS, BOTHA SAW VALUE OF DIALOGUE BUT COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT WITHOUT CONSULTING PRIME MINISTER.

3. THE NEXT DAY (THURSDAY, JULY 28), SCOTT CONTINUED, HE RECEIVED STRANGE PHONE CALL FROM BOTHA SUGGESTING THAT HE MIGHT WISH TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH VORSTER ABOUT THE INVITATION. SCOTT IMMEDIATELY SOUGHT AND OBTAINED APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER FOR FOLLOWING MORNING (FRIDAY, JULY 29).

4. SCOTT REPORTS THAT VORSTER WAS COOL BUT NOT UNFRIENDLY. THEY DISCUSSED PURPOSE OF THE LONDON MEETING FROM WHICH SCOTT

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GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT VORSTER ON BALANCE WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED BUT WANTED TO THINK FURTHER ABOUT THE MATTER BEFORE GIVING RESPONSE.

5. TWENTY-FOUR HOURS HAVE PASSED SINCE VORSTER-SCOTT MEETING AND SCOTT HAS HAD NO FURTHER WORD FROM VORSTER OR BOTHA. SCOTT PROMISED TO LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS HE RECEIVED REPLY.

BOWDLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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